

- c. MDCPS caseworker trainees, as part of pre-service training, may be assigned specific tasks or activities in connection with a case that is the primary responsibility of an experienced caseworker and may, under appropriate supervision, be assigned responsibility for a "training caseload" with progressively responsible caseload assignment:
 - 1) Upon successful completion of a competency test, reviewed and approved by Public Catalyst and administered subsequent to the trainee's fourth week of work, up to 5 cases may be assigned with supervisor approval;
 - 2) Final caseloads may be assigned after successful completion of pre-service training, all competency-based tests and a satisfactory review by the training team;
 - 3) All competency tests, modifications to competency tests, and the standards for passing competency tests, must be reviewed and approved by Public Catalyst.
- d. MDCPS caseworker supervisors, within 90 days of hire or promotion, shall receive a minimum of 40 hours of training, directed specifically at the supervision of child welfare caseworkers.

5. Caseloads and Case Services

- a. Defendants shall submit a plan, including supporting data and information, by December 15, 2016, and have it approved by Public Catalyst, to:
 - 1) measure caseloads according to the new weighted caseload standards set forth in Exhibit "A" of this STRO, using the results of the September 2016 caseload audit;
 - 2) streamline in-home (prevention/protection) and out-of-home (placement) case service types; and
 - 3) streamline the County of Responsibility/County of Service case types
- b. Public Catalyst will establish performance targets for MDCPS caseload compliance by March 1, 2017, and report on compliance to the parties every three (3) months.
- c. Defendants will comply with the caseload compliance performance targets established by Public Catalyst.
- d. Defendants shall achieve full caseload compliance with the new weighted caseload standards by December 31, 2017.

